Efforts to attract more tourists

4410. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of TOURISM bepleased to state:

(a) what efforts are being initiated to attract more tourists in different parts of the country with particular emphasis on Uttarakhand;

(b) whether unauthorized activities near shrines of Uttarakhand are being restricted by the respective Governments; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what efforts will be made in order to maintain the sanctity of temples and shrines in the country?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) The Ministry of Tourism is promoting tourism in different parts of the country including Uttarakhand through publicity campaigns literature and dissemination of information through its website as well as through the 20 domestic and 13 overseas India Tourism Offices.

(b) and (c) The maintenance of law and order and restriction on unauthorized activities near shrines is the responsibility of the concerned shrine board/trust/local authorities and the respective State/UT Governments.

Development and promotion of monasteries in Sikkim

4411 SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount provided to the State Government of Sikkim during the last three years for the development and promotion of monasteries in Sikkim to attract Buddhist tourists from countries like Japan and the South East Asian countries;

(b) the names and the number of such monasteries selected for the purpose in the future in Sikkim; and

(c) the necessary steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 180.83